

## College of Graduate, Research and Online Education Mission, Vision, and Strategic Guideposts (2024-2028)

The College of Graduate, Research and Online Education (GROE) is committed to expanding and preserving knowledge. It recognizes that curious people explore and push the boundaries of the human intellect and the physical world. Our primary focus is GROWTH and the support services that strategically stimulate enrollment, student success, faculty and student scholarly endeavors, community engagement, and external grants and contracts at the University of Northern Iowa.

The College's mission is to advocate for graduate and online education, strengthen the experiences offered by the university through external funding, and provide high-quality service to programs, faculty, and students. The goal is to develop individuals with advanced abilities to address significant issues and improve quality of life. GROE partners with academic and non-academic units to promote scholarship among faculty and students and provide campus-wide academic and professional development resources, meaningful experiences, and engagement in all aspects of academic life.

Vision: Creating an innovative educational environment that propels the campus community to excellence and advances the scholarly work of staff and faculty.

The College of Graduate, Research, and Online Education comprises three units: 1. The Division of Graduate Studies, 2. The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, and 3. The Division of Online Education and Individual Studies.

### The Division of Graduate Studies

The Division of Graduate Studies assures that postbaccalaureate education at the University of Northern Iowa is of a high academic quality so that students are motivated and educated to be independent leaders in their professions and communities. To this end, Graduate Studies fosters an instructional environment that enables excellence in teaching, research, and creative activities and encourages community involvement. Graduate Studies supports the development of scholarship, students, and programs and supports the needs of an ever-changing campus community. We believe in sustainable practices (and programs) built upon access, innovation, and collaboration. We are shaped by the policies that guide us, the values that drive us, and the community with which we GROW. These activities are central to a robust graduate education.

### The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

The Office of Research & Sponsored Programs supports creative activity and scholarly research to benefit the campus and community. We strive to serve the University's

faculty, staff, and external sponsors by ensuring compliance with sponsored funding, research regulations, policies, and procedures. RSP operates on a foundation of integrity, fairness, consistency, and equity. RSP works to advance the scholarship of UNI's faculty and staff within the guidelines advanced by external sponsors and local, state, and federal rules and regulations.

### The Division of Online Education and Individual Studies

The Division of Online Education and Individual Studies supports online program development, marketing, recruitment, student support, and instructional development through collaborative partnerships. We intersect and build strong relationships with internal and external stakeholders, leading to good resource stewardship. We believe in expanding access and delivering equitable education opportunities through innovative ideas and exemplary support. We meet the demands and expectations of current and future students through leadership and experience while adapting to new policies and emerging technologies. Stewardship and excellence are the cornerstones of our division.

### **Pillars of Excellence**

- Purposeful Learning - involves working with other academic units to understand the learning process and develop engaging and relevant learning activities—helping students develop their personal, intellectual, and professional goals.
- Creative Collaboration & Engagement - creates new ideas and solutions by combining skills, ideas, and resources in an interdisciplinary approach to problem-solving, communication, idea generation, and project execution.
- Capacity Building (Stewardship) - also known as capacity development, involves improving individuals' and organizations' skills, knowledge, and resources to perform more effectively. Helping our students, faculty, and larger community adapt and thrive in a changing world.
- Integrity & Academic Excellence - is the quality of honesty and consistent and uncompromising adherence to strong moral and ethical principles and values. Integrity is the honesty, truthfulness, or earnestness of one's actions.
- Opportunity for All - emphasizes access to those wishing to engage in career exploration, workforce development, intellectual advancement, and lifelong learning opportunities.

## **Strategic Guideposts**

The College of Graduate, Research and Online Education is committed to focusing on six strategic guideposts to uplift and support the University of Northern Iowa Community (i.e., students, faculty, staff, and the Cedar Valley). GROE is committed to:

1. Supporting and providing high-quality programming and professional development opportunities for faculty and students.
2. Active participation in intellectual discovery and creative problem-solving to make positive changes in the lives of our students, faculty, and local and global communities.
3. Building a thriving academic catalog of programs, credentials, and other resources to support lifelong learning and engagement, positively impacting the future of the students we serve.
4. Advancing academic excellence and ethical practices in scholarship, creative activity, and teaching through rigorous and intellectual research and instruction, as well as unwavering support for freedom of expression in teaching and scholarship.
5. Creating and supporting options for program delivery and financial accessibility and establishing and supporting policies and procedures that facilitate access to university programming.
6. Providing high-quality service to our internal and external constituents